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BIRTHDAY OF YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI PULAU PINANG

A seasoned diplomat and a natural leader

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A SEASONED diplomat, a man of wisdom and the go-to person sought by friends and colleagues for solace. These traits of Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak still remain etched in the minds of his friends and former colleagues even today.

The 72-year-old took his oath of office as the eighth Yang di-Pertua Negeri (YDPN) of Penang on May 1, succeeding Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas who served as the YDP for 20 years.

Takaful Malaysia's group chief executive officer Datuk Seri Mohamed Hassan Kamil said Ahmad Fuzi's vast experience in diplomacy and the business world certainly qualifies him for the position.

He served as Syarikat Takaful Malaysia Keluarga Berhad's chairman for almost four years.

As the secretary-general of the World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation (WIEFF), Tun has been of great assistance for Takaful to promote Islamic finance globally.

He has a strong business acumen coupled with a humble approach when dealing with people.

This is definitely an asset that he has gained from his vast experience dealing with heads of states and foreign diplomats over the years.

"His command of the English language still amazes me. He can effortlessly get people to see things from his perspective," Hassan told the *New Straits Times*.

Among his many corporate roles, Ahmad Fuzi also served as the chairman of the PKT Logistics Group in 2010, where he is still remembered as a "skilled and polished gentleman".

PKT Logistics Group chief executive officer Datuk Michael Tio said, Ahmad Fuzi is passionate in championing education causes and offered his support when the company ventured into the education agenda in 2015.

"Tun is very humble, approachable and has an unwavering passion

Datuk Seri Mohamed Hassan Kamil with Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak while chairing the Takaful AGM in 2018.



for education.

"He was very supportive of our idea to set up The Ship Campus which hosts Peninsula College's national headquarters.

Tio has also accompanied Ahmad Fuzi on several missions under the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEFF), during which he witnessed the latter's eloquence and diplomatic skills.

Meanwhile, for Segi International Bhd's corporate advisor Datuk Seri

Mohamad Azahari Kamil, Ahmad Fuzi hails from a rare breed of leaders who never compromises on integrity.

"I got acquainted with Tun in 2005 when he became chairman of Amanah Raya Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) while I was serving as the managing director.

"At that time, REIT was a new investment instrument in Malaysia and we were trying to get foreign investors to invest in real estate here.

"As the former secretary-general for the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Tun's networking with foreign investors was a blessing for us.

He was instrumental in getting local and international investors to mobilise investments and took Amanah Raya REIT to great heights.

While he was a no-nonsense man during work, Ahmad Fuzi was also a composed gentleman and a trustworthy friend to confide in and seek

guidance from for personal and professional matters.

"Tun is a people's man. He does not shy away from meeting new people.

"He loves learning, unlearning and relearning new things which contributes to his robust knowledge base," Azahari said.

Hassan, Tio and Azahari conveyed their best wishes to Ahmad Fuzi and were confident that he will be able to lead Penang to greater heights.



(From left) Pacific Interlink Sdn Bhd regional managing director Fouad Hayel Saeed, Segi International Bhd corporate advisor Datuk Seri Mohamed Azahari Kamil, Media Prima group chairman Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Al-Junid and Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak at an event in Penang recently.



Datuk Michael Tio (centre) with Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak (left) during the launching of PKT Logistics headquarters in Shah Alam in 2010.